

defense deterrent. And as Taiwan has played a greater role in world affairs, the United States has adjusted the way in which it deals with Taiwan. United States cabinet-level officials in economic areas have visited Taiwan.

The point is that the United States shares important interests with China. Consequently, we should not ignore China's reaction on this issue. Right now, for example, the administration is engaged in sensitive negotiations with North Korea over what kind of reactor the North will accept in return for abandoning its nuclear weapons program. China reportedly is urging North Korea to accept a South Korean-model reactor and so defuse the current crisis. We need that kind of help. We also have an interest in peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait.

So, Mr. Speaker, I support this resolution. But I also hope that we can summon the creativity to manage this situation so that we may both express our historic friendship with Taiwan and, at the same time, preserve our interests. This visit should be truly nonpolitical in the way it is conducted. We should make clear to Beijing that a short visit by President Lee in no way changes the United States view of Taiwan's status. And I think it is clear that there needs to be some confidence-building between Beijing and Taipei so that neither side overreacts to the actions of the other.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 53, of which I am an original cosponsor.

Given the fact that President Lee Teng-hui is the freely elected leader of the Republic of China on Taiwan—a United States ally and important trading partner—it would seem self-evident that he would be welcome at any time for private visits to the United States. Yet this is not the case. Frankly, President Lee has been subjected to some rather shoddy treatment by the Clinton administration, which, of course, is the impetus behind this concurrent resolution.

I want to make it clear that President Lee is a reform-minded democrat who is offering just the kind of leadership the United States should wish to encourage in Asia. While I am certainly in favor of maintaining a constructive relationship with the People's Republic of China, I see no reason why the two policies should be mutually exclusive. Surely the situation calls for a degree of tact and diplomacy, two qualities which this administration has lacked in its dealings with President Lee.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I support the resolution, and I hope the administration will take note of the position of the House.

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. Speaker, the decision to allow the elected leadership of Taiwan access to the United States was made when Taiwan decided to have free elections, a free press and pluralistic political systems. This isn't simply an issue to the people of Taiwan. As a matter of policy, the United States should never exclude the elected and legitimate leader of any nation seeking to come to our country. The views of nations with whom we have relations, and those nations that play a disproportionate role in world affairs, should always be heard by our Government. They can, however, never be controlling upon our Government.

The Government in Beijing has received all due deference. In the final analysis, it is the policy of the U.S. Government to allow all freely elected governments to come to this

country and be heard. The people of the United States do not need to be protected from the views of freely elected peoples.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I want to add that it would be an extraordinary statement that, after receiving in the last decade a range of leaders from Roberto D'Aubuisson, the leader of the death squads in El Salvador, to Deng Xiaoping, the leader of the world's largest totalitarian government, that any freely elected official is denied access to our country. I hope this resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 53, succeeds in convincing the administration of the strength of our bipartisan views. But I would remind the administration, if they do not after considerable negotiations, that I have a common resolution to amend the Taiwan Relations Act as a matter of law to allow access and visas to the United States. If discretion is not used properly by the administration, discretion will be lost by the administration. We will proceed with our amendment and change the law.

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to extend my remarks on House Concurrent Resolution 53, a resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding a private visit by President Lee Teng-hui of the Republic of China to the United States. I was pleased to offer my strong support for this measure, and am delighted that the House of Representatives endorsed this important resolution.

This resolution is a sensible request. We should all recognize that the Republic of China is a full-fledged democracy, and its government policies conform to those of other democratic nations. Additionally, the Republic of China is one of the most important economic powers in the world. Specifically, the Republic of China has established a program of economic assistance to many underdeveloped nations, and has joined major international organizations such as the Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation [APEC] forum. The Republic of China has also been involved in international humanitarian relief efforts, such as helping the refugees of the Persian Gulf war. More importantly though, the Republic of China is willing to be a helpful partner in the international community.

While the United States does not want to jeopardize its relations with other governments, we should grant an exception to allow the President of the Republic of China to make a private visit to our country. The nature of the visit by President Lee Teng-hui, to receive an honorary degree from Cornell University, is a reasonable appeal, and should be so recognized by our government.

As Members of Congress, I would believe that we would want to maintain our relations with the Republic of China, and am pleased that the House passed this resolution.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COMBEST). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER] that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 53, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's

prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Concurrent Resolution 53.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nebraska?

There was no objection.

PERMISSION FOR CERTAIN COMMITTEES TO SIT ON TODAY DURING THE 5-MINUTE RULE

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following committees and their subcommittees be permitted to sit today while the House is meeting in the Committee of the Whole House under the 5-minute rule:

The Committee on Banking and Financial Services;

The Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities;

The Committee on Government Reform and Oversight; and

The Committee on International Relations.

It is my understanding that the minority has been consulted and that there is no objection to these requests.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material, on H.R. 1158.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 1158, EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE AND RESCISSIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1995

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 1158) making emergency supplemental appropriations for additional disaster assistance and making rescissions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1995, and for other purposes, with Senate amendments thereto, disagree to the Senate amendments, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?